

Appl. No. 10/054,825
Reply Date: May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2004

•• REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS ••

The present Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been changed to recite that the barrier cuffs have a height (as shown in Fig. 3) and that the opposite side edges of the supplementary absorbent batt assembly are spaced apart upwardly from the body facing surface of the primary absorbent batt assembly by a portion of the height of the barrier cuffs which separate the supplementary batt from the primary absorbent batt under tension of the barrier cuffs.

In the Advisory Action of January 30, 2006 the Examiner has indicated that in Chmielewski et al. the primary and secondary absorbent batt assemblies were spaced apart by the thickness of sheet 706.

Such an interpretation does not provide for the spacing recited in claim 1 as amended herein.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment and an early examination of the application are respectfully requested.


It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the outstanding Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

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If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved; the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael S. Gzybowski
Reg. No. 32,816

BUTZEL LONG
350 South Main Street
Suite 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 995-3110

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